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COUNTRY Rumania

**SUBJECT** Medicines in Rumania

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1. Medical doctors inside Rumania no longer have access to the medical views of their colleagues abroad; the public libraries where such periodicals exist now need special authorization from the local officials to permit medical men to examine these books or pamphlets.
2. Medicines are limited to the type and kind produced inside Rumania; should a doctor issue a prescription calling for medicine of foreign manufacture, he is subject to punishment. The populace, on the other hand, do not trust the Rumanian made medicines and it is only the black market which produces the medicines used in treatments. The supply comes from postal packages and those which arrive from the United States are officially "divided" with the customs authorities taking their generous share.
3. The Elias Hospital, the official Communist Party hospital, receives the medicines derived from American postal packages. It is stocked with "western medicines" and when the need arises, this hospital does not hesitate to buy its requirements on the black market.
4. Penicillin is in limited supply. When the stock runs short, the prices rise proportionately. Penicillin in oil, in 3,000,000 unit sizes, is generally sold at 12,000 lei on the black market; the official rate for the same amount is 3,500 lei. In the State pharmacies a 200,000 unit size sold at about 500 lei. Soviet made penicillin is absolutely refused by the public. Streptomycin can only be secured by special permission of the "Tuberculosis Directorate" of the Ministry of Health. The black market cost is about 1,500 lei per gram. Aureomycin is sold at the rate of 4,000 to 9,000 lei for a vial of 25 capsules of 0.50 kilogram weight on the black market. Sulfamides are imported from Hungary, but there does not seem to be a sufficient quantity.

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